



City of Rochester

Department of Law
City Hall Room 400A, 30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614-1295
www.cityofrochester.gov

Timothy R. Curtin
Corporation Counsel

July 26, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Thomas F. Ferrarese, Commissioner
Monroe County Board of Elections
106 and 108 County Office Building
39 W. Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Proposition for Referendum Vote on City of Rochester Local Law No. 4

Dear Commissioner Ferrarese:

Enclosed please find a proposed ballot proposition regarding the above-referenced Local Law No. 4 enacted by the City of Rochester, as well as supporting documents consisting of the following:

- Certification from the City Clerk regarding Local Law No. 4;
- Proposition and Abstract describing the purpose of Local Law No. 4;
- Text of Local Law No. 4 enacted by City Council.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (585) 428-7741 or Tim.Curtin@CityofRochester.Gov.

Very truly yours,

Timothy R. Curtin

Enclosures

FILED
 BOARD OF ELECTIONS
 MONROE COUNTY, NY
 2019 JUL 26 PM 1:13



CERTIFICATION

I am the City Clerk for the City of Rochester. I certify that at a duly convened public meeting of the City of Rochester City Council conducted on June 18, 2019, the City Council adopted Local Law No. 4 entitled "Our Children, Our Future," amending the City Charter with regard to Commissioners of Schools, and such Local Law was deemed duly adopted on July 8, 2019, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law. A certified copy of Local Law No. 4 as required by New York State Elections Law Section 4-108, is attached hereto, as well as a copy of the certified Local Law. Accordingly, as City Clerk, I submit the attached proposition for consideration of the Monroe County Board of Elections and submittal for the approval of the electors of the City of Rochester at the general election to be held on November 5, 2019.

City of Rochester City Clerk

By: Hazel Washington
Hazel Washington
30 Church Street, Room 300A, City Hall
Rochester, NY 14614
Telephone: (585) 428-7421

Wendy Velez
Notary Public

WENDY VELEZ
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Monroe County
No. 01VE6236011
Commission Expires February 22, 2023

2019 JUL 26 PM 4:13
FILED
CLERK OF MONROE COUNTY
ROCHESTER, NY

Local Law No. 4

Local Law, entitled "Our Children, Our Future," amending the City Charter with regard to Commissioners of Schools

BE IT ENACTED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-1 to read as follows:

The electors of the City shall elect the Mayor, five Council-members-at-large[, the Commissioners of Schools] and the Judges of the City Court. The electors of each City district shall elect one District Councilmember.

Section 2. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-8 to read as follows:

The term of each elective officer commences on the first day of January succeeding his or her election[, and the term of office of Commissioners of Schools is four years].

Section 3. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by deleting Section 2-13, Salaries of School Board members, in its entirety.

Section 4. The Charter amendments provided for herein shall remain in effect for a period of not less than five (5) years.

Section 5. This Local Law shall be submitted for the approval of the electors of the City of Rochester at the general election to be held on November 5, 2019 and shall take effect only if and when it is certified as having been approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on said proposition and the enactment of appropriate enabling amendments to the Education Law.

Explanation: Matter in *italics* is new, to be added; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.



City of Rochester

City Clerks Office

Certified Local Law

Rochester, N.Y., _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby certify that the following is a true copy of a local law which was duly passed by the Council of the City of Rochester on **June 18, 2019** and **Approved** by the Mayor of the City of Rochester, and was deemed duly adopted on **July 8, 2019** in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Local Law No. 4

Local Law, entitled "Our Children, Our Future," amending the City Charter with regard to Commissioners of Schools, as amended

BE IT ENACTED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-1 to read as follows:

The electors of the City shall elect the Mayor, five Council-members-at-large, ~~the Commissioners of Schools~~ and the Judges of the City Court. The electors of each City district shall elect one District Councilmember.

Section 2. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-8 to read as follows:

The term of each elective officer commences on the first day of January succeeding his or her election, ~~and the term of office of Commissioners of Schools is four years.~~

Section 3. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by deleting Section 2-13, Salaries of School Board members, in its entirety.

Section 4. The Charter amendments provided for herein shall remain in effect for a period of not less than five (5) years.

Section ~~4~~ 5. This Local Law shall be submitted for the approval of the electors of the City of Rochester at the general election to be held on November 5, 2019 and shall take effect only if and when it is certified as having been approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on said proposition and the enactment of appropriate enabling amendments to the Education Law.

Strikeout indicates deleted text, new text is underlined.


Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes - President Scott, Councilmembers Evans, Gruber, Lightfoot, Patterson - 5.

Nays - Councilmembers Clifford, Ortiz, Spaul - 3.

Councilmember Harris abstained due to a professional relationship.

Attest



City Clerk

Ballot Proposition
July 26, 2019

Proposition No. 1

Shall the City of Rochester enable the reform of our public schools by adopting a Local Law that would suspend the terms of the Commissioners of the Board of Education for a period of at least five (5) years?

Abstract

On July 8, 2019, the City of Rochester adopted Local Law No. 4 entitled "Our Children, Our Future, amending the City Charter with regard to Commissioners of Schools." Local Law No. 4 seeks to amend the City Charter to remove language referencing the Commissioners of Schools and salaries of School Board Members in order to allow the State Commissioner of Education to institute necessary processes and procedures in furtherance of better educational opportunities for our City students.

Local Law No. 4 was proposed based on the New York State Education Department's investigation of the governance of the Rochester City School District. On November 14, 2018, Dr. Jaime Aquino issued the Distinguished Educator's Report, which details 106 findings and 84 recommendations necessary to support and advance district improvements for the Board of Education and District to provide equitable access to high-quality education for all students.

Prompted by the release of the Distinguished Educator's Report, throughout the month of December 2018, the Mayor of the City of Rochester, Lovely Warren, hosted a series of forums to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing Rochester's schools. The goal was to identify areas for future community partnerships that will promote our children's success and learning. Hundreds of parents, students and community members took the time to come together and emphasize the urgency of confronting the challenges in our schools. In doing so, they recognized that so much of one's future life experiences—from health to wellbeing to income—depends on the acquisition of a quality education.

The proposed amendments to the City Charter would, for a period of five years, eliminate the Board of Commissioners of the City School District as local elective officers, thereby enabling the State Commissioner of Education to institute necessary processes and procedures to provide a better educational outcome for our City students.

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